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	Title 2006 Raccoon Road-Kill Survey	

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Raccoon road-kill surveys are conducted in Indiana during the months of March, July and August to index regional and statewide (Figure 1) raccoon population trends. Conservation Officers and Wildlife Section Biologists record the number seen, sex and age of road-killed raccoons while conducting daily operations.

A total of 3,829 raccoons was observed road-killed in Indiana during 961,935 miles of travel observation in March, July and August 2006. The resulting statewide index of 39.81 road-killed raccoons per 10,000 miles of travel observation slightly increased from 2005 (Table 1). Regional indices decreased between years for all regions except the south central and southeast. Raccoon populations continue to be more abundant in the northern region of Indiana.

The statewide index for adult raccoons decreased during March 2006 (24.65) but long-term (5-year) data for March indices indicate a slightly increasing trend in the number of road-killed adult raccoons, suggesting an abundance of breeding raccoons. Although the juvenile-to-adult (75:100) ratio increased by 27.1% and the juvenile-to-adult female (296:100) ratio increased by 28.3%, long-term data indicate a declining trend in the number of road-killed juvenile raccoons for the past 10 years. Positive trends in the relative abundance of adult raccoons (i.e., the breeding population) appear to be compensating for slightly lower trends in the relative abundance of juvenile raccoons and the raccoon population in Indiana has remained at elevated levels during 2006 (Figure 2).

Acknowledgement is due for all Division of Fish & Wildlife and Division of Enforcement personnel who continue to participate with and support the raccoon road-kill survey.

Table 1. Comparison of statewide and regional raccoon road-kill indices between March, July and August 2005 and 2006 in Indiana.

District	2005				2006		
	No. of Miles	No. of Raccoon	No. Per 10,000 Miles		No. of Miles	No. of Raccoons	No. Per 10,000 Miles
NW	132,094	715	54		144,321	769	49
NE	174,366	860	49		146,484	739	45
NC	131,262	752	57		104,618	578	50
SW	116,917	268	23		105,300	263	22
SC	221,736	523	24		221,989	844	35
SE	165,293	587	36		144,081	636	39
Statewide	941,668	3,705	39		866,793	3,829	40



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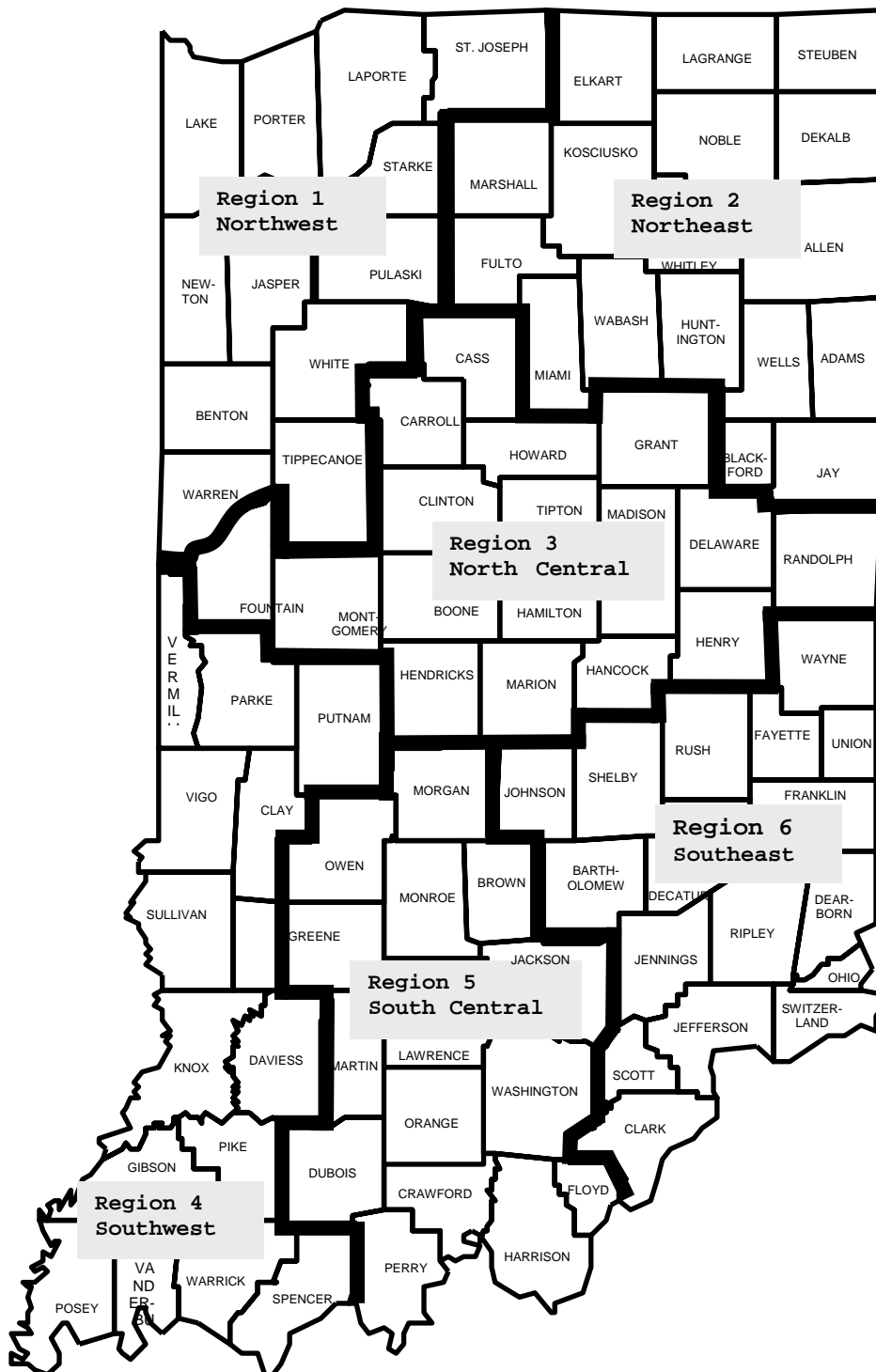


Figure 1. Indiana fur harvest regions.

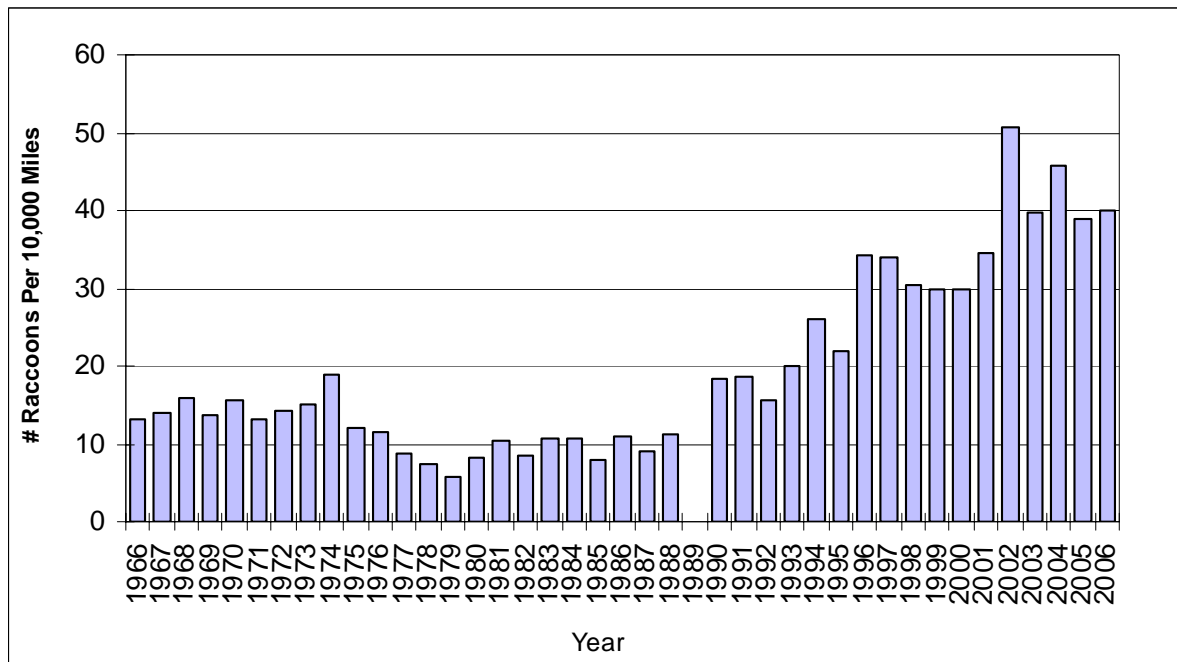


Figure 2. Number of road-killed raccoons observed per 10,000 miles traveled in Indiana from 1966 to 2006.